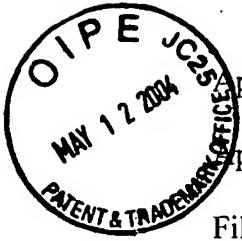


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicant : Noriko OTA

Group Art Unit : Not Yet Assigned

Appl. No. : 10/777,086

Examiner : Not Yet Assigned

Filed : February 13, 2004

For : ELECTRONIC ENDOSCOPE SYSTEM

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98,
Applicant hereby call to the Examiner's attention the following documents:

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2000-210245, which was published
on August 2, 2000, together with an English language translation of the same. Applicant
notes that this document is discussed on page 2 of the specification;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 10-108826, which was published
on April 28, 1998, together with an English language translation of the same. Applicant
notes that this document is discussed on page 2 of the specification;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2002-72106, which was published on
March 12, 2002, together with an English language translation of the same. Applicant
notes that this document is discussed on page 2 of the specification;

Japanese Patent No. 2866658, which issued on December 18, 1998, together with
an English language translation of the same;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 11-305148, which was published on November 5, 1999, together with an English language translation of the same; and

U.S. Patent No. 6,602,186 to SUGIMOTO et al., which issued on August 5, 2003.

Further to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(i), a copy of the U.S. patent is not enclosed herewith. However, if a copy is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the above-noted foreign documents are attached and all of the documents have been listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the Form to the Applicant with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicant also brings to the Examiner's attention the following co-pending, commonly assigned patent applications:

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/706,080 to SASAKI, entitled "Endoscope System Having an Auxiliary Lighting Device," which was filed on November 13, 2003; and

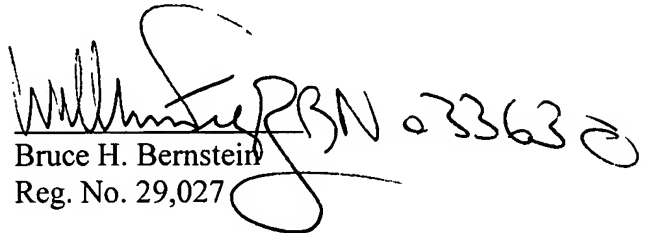
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/777,064 to OTA, entitled "Light Source Apparatus for Endoscope," which was filed on February 13, 2004.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(iii), copies of the above-noted applications are attached. However, the Examiner is also requested to review the file wrapper of these U.S. patent applications at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the references of record, if any, cited therein.

Applicant notes that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application and the Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing of the present application thus no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Noriko OTA


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May 11, 2004
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